

June 7, 2017

Dear Michigan State Representatives,

As faith leaders from many different traditions, we write out of grave concern regarding the anti-immigrant legislation that is being considered in the Michigan Legislature. As people of faith, we look first to our common values rooted in our sacred texts that remind us to love our neighbor and welcome the sojourner among us. As Leviticus 19:34 (CE) reminds us:

"Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God."

We must recall that we are a state with a proud legacy of immigrants, and we recognize the valuable contributions immigrants and refugees bring to our communities and economy.

As the Michigan legislature considers HB 4105 and HB 4334, we urge you to remember that Michigan policies should reflect those values and treat immigrants with the respect and dignity we all deserve. The proposed legislation and its harsh rhetoric sends a divisive message and casts immigrants as threats rather than contributors to our communities. Together, [HB 4105](#) and [HB 4334](#) would prohibit local municipalities from passing "welcoming cities" policies, pressure state and local law enforcement to serve as immigration enforcement officers, encourage racial profiling, and punishes local police for adopting policies that limit cooperation between local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. These bills would take away local police departments' right to set their own public safety priorities and commitments to protect immigrants who are victims or witnesses of crime. Doing so would attempt to conscript local law enforcement to prioritize immigration enforcement over local public safety needs.

HB 4105 and HB 4334 would erode trust between the immigrant community and local police and put our public safety at risk. These provisions would not make communities or cities in Michigan any safer. Rather, they would reverse community-based policing efforts that are vital to public safety in our neighborhoods. Safety increases for everyone when all individuals can report dangerous situations and seek protection from violence without the fear of being deported and separated from their families.

State and local agencies that assist the federal government in the enforcement of immigration have faced significant financial burdens due to the costs of holding people for ICE without reimbursement, as well as potential costs associated with litigation against the state for constitutional violations of due process.^[1]

This legislation would unfairly punish local police departments for not targeting immigrants simply for being undocumented. By apprehending and detaining immigrants solely for being undocumented, HB 4105 and HB 4334 would reverse years of intentional, community-based policing efforts that are vital to public safety in neighborhoods across the state. We believe that

^[1] For example, the U.S. District Court of Oregon found that the county law enforcement violated the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by detaining and incarcerating an immigrant under an ICE detainer. <http://media.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty_impact/other/Miranda%20Oliveras%20MSJ%20decision.140411.pdf>

these bills will create a more hostile environment for all immigrants and persons of color, which would lead to further discrimination and increased racial profiling, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

As faith leaders, we work to uplift and support immigrants in our midst. We support policies and programs that help build welcoming communities. We are praying that you may find compassion in your discernment and vote against any legislation that would hurt immigrants and reduce community safety. We urge you to think about the moral imperative to love our neighbor, welcome the immigrant, and care for the most vulnerable among us. Please help us stop HB 4105 and HB 4334.

In solidarity,

Reverend Lindsey Anderson, Detroit Cooperative Church
Associate Pastor to the Hispanic/Latino Ministry Miguel Arrieta, Society of Jesus
Derek Atkins, Project Coordinator, CRCNA
The Reverend Jodi Baron, St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Rev. Brian Bennett, Overflow Church
Mrs. Christine Berghoef, United Church of Christ
Rev. Bryan Berghoef, Holland United Church of Christ
Ministry leader Tisha Berkenpas, Christian Reformed Church
Thomas Blaising, Epiphany Episcopal South Haven, MI
Reverend Thomas Boogaart, Reformed Church in America
Pastor Benjamin Bruins, Trinity Reformed Church
Pastor Randall Buursma, First Christian Reformed Church
Yisa Campos, St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
House Church Leader/Pastor Daniel Carlson, Non-denominational
Reverend Chris DeBlaay, Reformed Church in America
Rev Joel DeMoor, Neland Ave Christian Reformed Church
Rev. Andrea DeWard, Reformed Church in America
Reverend Ruth Fitzgerald, East Congregational United Church of Christ
Hospice Chaplain Carol L Flietstra, Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church
Katie Gordon, Interfaith Community
Rev. Denise Griebler, 1st United Church of Christ
Rev. Carol Hall, First Congregational UCC
Rev. Frances Hayes, Littlefield Presbyterian Church, Dearborn
Dr. Thomas Hoeksema Sr., Grace Christian Reformed Church
Pastor Pamela Hutchens, Auburn Hills Presbyterian Church
Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Pastor Jay Kalis, Religious Society of Friends
Pastor Jack Kooreman, Grace Christian Reformed Church
Rev. Kate Kooyman, Reformed Church in America
Rev. Greg Lawton, Wesley Fellowship at GVSU
Rev. Christy Lipscomb, City Life Church

Reverend Adam Lipscomb, Wesleyan
Rev. Diane Maodush-Pitzer, PhD, Reformed Church in America
Rev. Emily Joye McGaughy, United Church of Christ
Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, Christian Reformed Church in North America
The Reverend Jill Mills, PC (USA)
Eric Nykamp, Director of Worship Design, Madison Church: North
High Priest Oberon Osiris, Covenant of the Goddess
Senior Pastor J. Douglas Paterson, First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor
The Rev. Paul Perez, The Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church
Emily Peterson, Children's Ministry Leader, Gracepointe Wesleyan
Chaplain Robert Rienstra, Eastern Avenue CRC
Rev. Christopher Roe, American Baptist Churches
Rev. Renee Roederer, Northside Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Tanner Smith, Harbor Life Church in Grandville, MI
Reverend Colleen Squires , All Souls Community Church
Rev. Brian Steele, Battle Creek Christ UMC
Rev. Lori Sykes, Lansing First United Methodist Church
Pastor Peter TeWinkle, Hope Church
Ana Trinidad, WICIR
Emily Ulmer, Worship Arts Coordinator, Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church
Rev. Douglas Van Doren, Plymouth United Church of Christ
Rev. Kris Van Engen, Fourth Reformed Holland
Peter Vander Meulen, Coordinator of the Office of Social Justice, CRCNA, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, Reformed Church in America (RCA)
The Rev Douglas Wadkins, Unitarian Universalist